

TOTAL LOSS OF THE YANGTSE.

Meissner & Co. have received news by wire from Shanghai that the German steamer Yangtze is a total loss. She came to grief off Hsienan Island, a little to the South of Ningpo. The Captain, crew and passengers, we are glad to learn, have been saved. The Yangtze left Hongkong for Shanghai on the 10th inst., with a valuable cargo, part of which was opium and treasure. The cargo was partly from Canton and part from Tientsin.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE COTTON YARN IMPOST.

News has been received from Canton by wire, to the effect that H. E. Li Han Chang has reconsidered his determination as to the imposition of the extra tax on Cotton and Cotton Yarn. Wise counsel have prevailed with the Viceroy, and His Excellency has decided to forego this levy, which would have almost put an end to a sound branch of trade. As was seen by the protests and appeal made by the native home (which appeared in our issue of the 12th inst.), this decision is to say, the distribution of these products throughout the Southern provinces—is in the hands of the native merchants, and the vigour of the protest put forward by these Chinese traders may possibly have thrown new light upon the question, and demonstrated to the Viceroy the harm which the new impost was bound to do to his own nationals. So far as we can understand—and the protest referred to corroborates the supposition—the new Viceroy is being misled by unwise advisers upon the subject of raising money, and it is to be hoped that the failure of the last two attempts to tax the wrong articles may serve to open his eyes to the folly of those who have advised him to his hurt. His wise men should now show him how money may best be raised without doing damage to legitimate branches of trade.

A DISORDERLY HOUSE IN WYNDHAM STREET.

A woman named Pearl Cleveland was summoned before Mr. Woodhouse in the Police Court to-day, charged at the instance of John Wylie, Inspector of Nuisances, with keeping a disorderly house.

The complainant said he lived next door to the defendant, who was at No. 179 Wyndham Street. The defendant was constantly creating a noise by singing and shouting from 11 p.m. till 4 a.m. This went on almost every night, and he wanted the defendant to stop making herself a nuisance to the neighbourhood. He had a woman lived in the house with defendant, and they were constantly visited by men. There was a backstairs down from the house to the kitchen, and complainant had seen the defendant there going about naked and behaving in a very improper manner.

Inspector Perry, residing at the Central Police Station, said he was awakened at 1.45 a.m. on the 12th inst. by the noise of people shouting and singing in the defendant's house.

The defendant said she had some new in the house on the 12th, as it was her birthday, and it was kept up rather late, but if she had known that it was annoying anybody she would have stopped it. It would not occur again.

His Worship asked the complainant if he had told the defendant of the annoyance she was causing.

The complainant said he did not think there would be any use in doing that, after having seen her drive a Chinese constable out of the back-yard with a carving knife. This happened when the defendant was in the house, and she had been told to be quiet, and she came out with a carving knife in her hand.

The defendant said she would like to see the man. She would take oath that it never occurred.

His Worship—Well, you must stop this kind of thing.

The defendant said that if the complainant had told her to stop it she would have done so. She said it was not true that he had seen her going about naked. He was wearing a dress without sleeves on account of the hot weather.

The complainant said the defendant had nothing at all on. She was perfectly naked.

The defendant said she never knew anything about causing annoyance until she got the summons.

His Worship, bound the defendant over in two instalments of \$25 each to be of good behaviour for six months. He warned the defendant that she must conduct her house in a proper and orderly way, and not be a nuisance to the people of the neighbourhood.

THE MARINA HOUSE-RENT.

Before Mr. Woodhouse in the Police Court to-day, Gabriel Jorge, 23, clerk, was charged on command with embezzling about \$1,000, the property of the Hongkong Marine, Limited, on the 9th inst. Mr. Moscrop appeared on behalf of the defendant.

J. M. Andrews, recalled, said—I produce the bank slips. Some of the bank slips do not appear. There are no bank slips for \$1,000, \$500, \$250, but there is a slip for \$1,000, but not the same as the counterfoils. There is a difference of \$100. The counterfoil is for \$200 the slip \$100. That means that \$200 was paid in. The initials on the counterfoils are forgeries of mine. The initials on the slip J.A., mean John Armstrong, a sub-accountant of the Bank. Mr. Armstrong could not have seen the counterfoils or he would not have initialled the slip. There are slips for \$1,000, \$500, \$250, but I have not looked them up yet, not knowing they would be wanted.

Cross-examined—I cannot say that there were any slips, but according to the book they are, and I am not the liable counterfoil to see the counterfoils if money had been taken to the bank. I cannot say that if the money was taken by some one at the bank that they would forge the initials of J.A., and destroy the slip. There is no name specially in charge of the slips, and I do not think any of the slips can have become mislaid.

John A. Barretto, recalled, said—The slip marked A is in the handwriting of the defendant, viz. the date, figures, and the writing giving the amount. None of it is my handwriting, but the writing of J. A. Barretto. I do not think that the prisoner, I cannot say who wrote it. The counterfoil A is in the handwriting of the prisoner. The amount \$200 for A would be entered in the pass-book. I saw the pass-book about May last. The prisoner always went to the bank with the pass-book. When I used to ask for the pass-book, the prisoner used to come back with the answer that it was not written up by the bank yet. I generally see the book every ten days. The last time I saw the book written up was some time in April, about the beginning of April or the latter end of March, but the book was brought to me about the middle of May, but it was not written up. From that time I could not get it. I always sent the prisoner to the bank for it, but he always returned with some excuse.

At the middle of May he produced it as if from the bank. It was only written up to the beginning of April and the prisoner said the bank people had not had time to write it up. I then gave it to him, to return it to the bank for it, and he did not do so. When I sent the prisoner to make inquiries he said it had been mislaid by the bank officials whilst they were removing.

Mr. Moscrop, to his Worship—I would like you to take note of my objection to all that the witness has said about conversation, as it is not evidence in support of the charge. Examined by Mr. Moscrop—I remember the prisoner being in Macao. He may have been there on the date mentioned in the counterfoil.

His Worship—The prisoner is committed for trial.

THE FUNJOM AND SUNGHE DUA SAMANTAN MINING CO. LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders of this company was held to-day. Mr. E. L. Woodin (in the absence of Mr. W. G. Brodie) presided, and there were also present: Messrs D. Gillics, T. E. Davies, W. H. Ray, W. Wotton, F. Doddwell (directors); J. F. C. da Rosa, A. Cohen, Mr. de la Rosa, Mr. Fraser Smith, G. Holmes, H. Sampson, J. D. Gimes, R. Lyall, R. C. Wilcox, F. Dyer, J. H. Cox, G. Fenwick, E. Rapp, S. G. James, E. George, W. Legge, S. A. Joseph, A. F. Soares, E. Robinson, R. Hohnke, G. D. Scott, E. Scott, A. Fukea, J. Samuel, &c.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been several days in your hands, and with your permission we will take them as read. I have been requested to preside over the meeting to-day as Mr. Brodie, your Chairman, is absent on a visit to the Straits inspecting the concessions and arranging other important business connected with the Company. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, which are set forth in detail, I beg to make a few observations on the past and present working of the Company. Anyone who knows something of mining will see why there has been a large amount of money expended on developments. Shafts have been sunk, levels and adits driven, and prospecting, although at times indications of finding rich gold-bearing leaders were promising. The accounts show that for the six months ending 30th September 1889 we have expended on Machinery Plant, Buildings, Drilling, Roads, &c. 8,850.64; Explored 8,755.02; Prospecting 2,648.79; Mining 9,788.92; Tin Concession 11,685.62; Surveying Expenses 1,315.49; Total \$38,304.05.

At the Jalis Mine, where the chief work has been concentrated during the past 18 months, the shaft has been sunk 110 feet and numerous levels driven, the underground work at this point totalling 1,222 feet. At the 110 feet level veins of rich gold-bearing quartz have been discovered, and the results of the recent assay state that a further improvement has taken place on the appearance of this working, the leaders having become wider and richer, and although this mine passes into new hands it is satisfactory to know that any good results obtained in future from this mine will be the main loze, has been traced in the direction of our other workings outside the New Company's boundary. The Tang Kong Mine, another working of importance in short distance from the main loze, may prove to be a rich mine, and it is proposed to further develop. During the past few months a considerable amount of ground has been opened up at Kalompong, where a shaft has been sunk to the depth of 80 feet, and levels and cross cuts made to the extent of 303 feet. The main level is now 300 feet into the hill at about 120 feet from the summit. At this working there is a cross cut of over 200 feet passing through a large pocket of quartz averaging over 1 oz. of gold to the ton; driving here is being continued to prove the extent of the loze. Selangor, our main mine and our most important point now that Jalis and Tang Kong have been sold. The loze here is apparently a continuation of the Jalis Black main loze, but the gold-bearing veins have not proved to be continuous. Indications are however decidedly promising, and it is proposed to continue sinking the shaft, already down 45 feet, to 300 feet, at which depth the probability is that the loze will be found solid and undisturbed. As continuous auriferous veins have not been found to extend into the surface, it is thought therefore desirable that we should proceed to deep sinking as soon as possible. At other places on the concession a considerable amount of prospecting has been done with fairly encouraging indications. During the last six months the Director has endeavoured to have a large and expensive working staff at the mines, but while developing the work at Selangor we shall continue to prospect over the concession with the object of ascertaining the value of the extensive quartz beds on the Funjom property, and dispose of such areas as may be found desirable and expedient. Touching our Tin Concession a new Manager has been placed in charge of our works at Sunghe Dua, and the system of mining there has been reorganised and put on a much more satisfactory footing. By Mr. Doddwell during his visit to that part of our property. Besides his salary Mr. Baird, the Manager, will receive a bonus of 10 per cent. on the value of all tin ore produced, after deducting all expenses connected with its production. It is an incentive of this kind, and it is hoped that it will be found to be a fair proportion of the value of your property. The expenditure for carrying on this work has been limited to \$100 per month. It has been suggested to your Directors that we should undertake a complete survey of the whole of your property with the view of obtaining

a thorough knowledge of the value and resources of the land. Your Directors have frequently discussed the great importance of ascertaining the topographical features of the two concessions, but the magnitude and cost of such an undertaking deterred them from seriously entertaining such a scheme, however desirable and necessary it may be for our future and profitable work. It is doubtful whether such a large tract of country could be accurately surveyed owing to the dense jungle which exists over miles of the concession, and it would certainly take several years to complete such work, and it was therefore that it has taken 13 months to define the boundary line only of our 200 square miles of land at a cost of about \$10,000. Some work of the nature suggested has already been undertaken by Messrs Brown, French and Lambourgh, who are at the Company's staff, but only in places where it was difficult to penetrate. The Directors have considered that it would be more desirable to ascertain, at less cost, the value of the property at various points, and to have a rough sketch of the whole of the concession, and let the purchaser do the rest of the surveying. With regard to the extension of the leases referred to in the report our original leases from the Sultan contained the clause that all ground not worked within a period of five years should be resumed by the Sultan, and the 5 years' time question expired last April. For some time past we have been in communication with the British Resident at Palang and the Straits Government touching this important matter with a view of obtaining a further extension of the 5 years' time. At first we were unable to get Government to accede to our request, but after some delay and further correspondence the Government consented to grant us an extension of 3 years. Your Directors however considering that they had a just and fair right to claim the same number of years stated in the original leases, and Mr. Brodie being then on the visit to the mines was authorised to negotiate with both the Palang and Straits Governments and endeavour to obtain the further 2 years, and the result was that the matter is finally agreed, and we trust that a wire will shortly reach us saying that everything has been satisfactorily concluded. Reference is made in the Report to Mr. Brodie's appointment as Managing Director, and his visit to our Company, and the valuable and useful information regarding the work being carried on at the mines; and the following particulars from his report, dated 25th May from Funjom, may interest you as they have been given to our shareholders.

On the morning after my arrival I went down the Jalis mine, our central and principal working. There has been a large amount of work done here on the 50 feet level, much time and money having been expended without any result. Now however we have already sunk about 15 feet below which is as low as we can go with our present pumps, and we have I am glad to say a very encouraging flow in our East level. We have here leaders of old-bearing quartz, one about 4 inches wide and one about 1 inch in width. The loze, through which we have already driven about 15 feet and which is estimated to be about 200 feet wide is of the same black shale as found at Raub. Rich specimens are got daily from these leaders, and if they widen out in depth as every one seems to think they will, we have already sunk about 15 feet below which is as low as we can go with our present pumps, and we have I am glad to say a very encouraging flow in our East level.

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the very interesting speech made by the Chairman he printed and circulated to the shareholders. He said that the proposal was agreed to.

Mr. Fraser Smith—I see by the report that you have engaged the services of Mr. Brodie as managing director: may I ask what will be his duties?

The Chairman—He will be permanently in the office and devote his whole time to the company's business.

Mr. Fraser Smith—I suppose the directors have satisfied themselves that there are duties to take up Mr. Brodie's time?

The Chairman—So many questions have cropped up in connection with the sale of part of our property and such an immense amount of correspondence to the directors will not be sufficient time to devote to it.

Mr. Fraser Smith—I quite understand that. I merely wish to have it explained. I would also ask what are your intentions with regard to Mr. Brodie?

The Chairman—He will be up here shortly, and we shall go into the whole question as regards Mr. Brodie and the management of the company.

Mr. Fraser Smith—If the directors desire any expression of opinion on the matter, I should propose that as soon as he came out he should be dismissed.

The Chairman—His agreement is not up for a year yet.

Mr. Fraser Smith—I think the general opinion is that the business of the company has been ably managed by him in the past, and the duties which he has been specially to perform have not been performed. Report after report has told us of a great deal of money spent and nothing to show for it. I think if we can't get a competent manager to direct the business, we had better let the directors, in spite of numerous difficulties, have done their best to further the interests of the shareholders. They have not been very successful, but that has not been altogether their fault. A great many rumours have been spread about the company, and some of them are true, but on the other hand it is well known that others are men who are substantial shareholders, and I think it is only right that we should let them know that although things have gone wrong with regard to the business, they are not looking particularly promising just now, they have still the confidence of the shareholders. (Applause.)

The Chairman—I thank you very much on behalf of my colleagues and myself, and I am sure you will continue to do the best we can for the interests of the company.

Mr. A. G. Apper—What remuneration does Mr. Brodie get?

The Chairman—Five hundred dollars a month.

Mr. W. Legge—With regard to Mr. Brodie, is it not correct, Mr. Chairman, that he has promised or bound himself to the old Funjom company to serve no other company?

The Chairman—That is according to the agreement.

Mr. Legge—According to the statement in the report he has stated in London beyond your instructions in connection with the new company.

The Chairman—We do not wish to discuss this matter at a public meeting.

Mr. Legge—The fact is he has forfeited his right to be considered as a shareholder. The Chairman—We don't know, but we must go into that subject at the proper time.

Mr. Legge—May I ask how long he was to be engaged and for what remuneration?

The Chairman—He has no remuneration beyond what he gets as a shareholder. At all events I think Mr. Brodie deserves to receive no remuneration at all.

The Chairman—I don't think there is any use in discussing the matter now.

Mr. Legge—That is what we are leading up to. There is one more question I should like to ask. I should like to know how much money we have in hand to develop our property.

The Chairman—About £100,000 in shares in the new company, which represents the money we have in hand.

Mr. Legge—May I ask why it is that the accounts are kept so much in arrears; why they can't be rendered later?

The Chairman—We are not next door to the mines, and it takes a little time to communicate.

Mr. G. Apper—May I ask, Mr. Chairman, if you are in a better position now than when we started? (Laughter.)

The Chairman—Well, I hope so. We have our ups and downs and we have got over all our downs now we hope. There is an old saying that a miner can never be sure of the end of his pick.

There being no further questions, the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. S. A. Joseph seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. George—What about the dividend warrants? (Laughter.)

The Chairman—That is a question for the directors to decide.

Charles Wilson, of the Ordnance Survey. In that case it is suggested that the survey should be made by military officers who would be sent from England, that the estimated cost of the survey was £3,000, and that in all probability it would be completed within a period of three years. On receipt of the despatch, bearing in mind that this was an important question, the Executive Council considered it, and we were unanimously of opinion that if such a survey could be made for what we consider a very moderate sum, it would be a very desirable thing to do, and accordingly wrote to the Secretary of State informing him that as far as the Government was concerned they concurred in the suggestion. I cannot take upon myself to say that the Secretary of State will be able to make the necessary arrangements before the close of the present year. In the despatch I wrote I requested him to forward me certain further particulars in connection with the subject, but he has not yet done so.

The Chairman—It is going any further in the matter I think, in case the survey should be commenced before the end of this year, it is only right I should submit the vote to the Council, and if they agree as to the desirability of the survey, to vote a sum of £3,000 for the present, which in all probability would be sufficient to cover any expenses in connection with the survey up to the end of this year. There may, I think, be no doubt that it is very desirable that such a survey should be made here, and if the survey can be made for the sum that has been suggested, it appeared to the members of the Executive Council, as well as myself, that the proposal was a very desirable one, and the Council is in favour of it.

I may mention further that the Secretary of State in his despatch said that inasmuch as the survey would benefit not only the civil Government of this colony but also the War Office, and the military pay of such officers who may be sent here, as well as such a scheme, as is necessary for them, should be discussed by the War Office. He also proposed that the cost of their passage out as well as their passage home should be paid by the Admiralty. As I have said the Government consider the proposal reasonable, and that the survey cannot do otherwise than prove beneficial to the Colony.

THE ORDINANCES OF HONGKONG.

The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following financial minute:—The Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of Three thousand Dollars, (\$3,000), being a sum not exceeding the limit of the Ordinance of the Colony, to be expended in this year for the printing and binding of 200 copies of the new edition of Ordinances of Hongkong. The total cost will be about \$800.00.

The Attorney General said no one suffered more than the Attorney General from the want of complete collection of the Ordinances of the Colony. It was also essential to the administration of justice that they should have a complete copy of the laws in force in the colony.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the protection of women and girls.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded the motion and was carried.

THE WATER WORKS BILL.

The Attorney General—I beg to move the second reading of the Water Works Bill 1890. When in the latter part of last year I was standing before you, I said that I was bringing forward a Bill to amend the law relating to the water works, and I said that I was bringing forward a Bill to amend the law relating to the water works, and I said that I was bringing forward a Bill to amend the law relating to the water works.

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possible to say whether the rate shall be 3 or 4 1/2. No man can tell how much money will be required. Therefore it is provided that there shall be a maximum rate. If that of 3 1/2 is more than sufficient to one will be more pleased than the Government. There is nothing new in this, as I understand that in former years there was a water rate which was afterwards changed in the general rates. Now we only estimate the water rate again and make it separate. If there is any surplus it will be dealt with separately. It is essential in order that there should be a proper system of accounts that the water rate should not be mixed up with other rates. If we have got a surplus after doing all that is necessary for the water supply, the Bill provides that, with the consent of the Governor in Legislative Council, it may be devoted to purposes connected with sanitation. The utmost publicity is secured. There is another point calling for consideration and that is the difference between domestic and non-domestic supply. Water cannot be got at all times of the year in the same quantities, and therefore it is necessary to make a distinction between the domestic supply for sanitary purposes and non-domestic supply for other purposes. The domestic supply is defined—'Water from the waterworks used in any house for drinking, washing, cooking, or for baths or any other purpose of domestic life.' The non-domestic supply is the water used for any other purpose, or in carrying on any trade or manufacture or for cattle, market gardens, or for any other purpose of a non-domestic nature. The water used for any of these purposes is defined—'Any water from the waterworks used for the purpose of, or in carrying on, any trade or manufacture or for cattle, market gardens, or for any other purpose of a non-domestic nature.' The water used for any of these purposes is defined—'Any water from the waterworks used for the purpose of, or in carrying on, any trade or manufacture or for cattle, market gardens, or for any other purpose of a non-domestic nature.'

As a means of pecuniary profit or for private purposes or for any other purpose of a non-domestic nature, the water used for any of these purposes is defined—'Any water from the waterworks used for the purpose of, or in carrying on, any trade or manufacture or for cattle, market gardens, or for any other purpose of a non-domestic nature.'

The water used

